

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Director of Evening Department The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

LESSON FOR MARCH 2

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

LESSON TEXT—Gen. 15:1-18.
GOLDEN TEXT—"He is faithful that promised."—Heb. 10:22.

Until within recent years it was frequently asserted that Abram's battle, as recorded in Gen. 14, "had not one whit of proof," yet the archaeologists have not only reconciled the apparent discrepancies but have proven beyond a question the accuracy of the record. Abram's victory over the four confederate kings is a story rich with typical suggestions.

I. "After These Things." vv. 1-17. God's word (v. 1) came to Abram not only as a counsel but for assurance as well. So, too, our assurance is his word, I John 5:13. In the midst of the uncertainty and the strife, for we must remember Abram never possessed the land, God appeared to him in a vision and said, "Fear not." See Isa. 41:10. There in the midst of foes (Jas. 2:23) God promised to be to Abram a shield and an exceeding great reward. A "shield" for there is to the Christian life a militant side, Eph. 6:13, 14, I Tim. 6:12. A "reward" which was far more rich than any given by man. See 14:21, Prov. 10:22.

Abram Was Human.

But Abram was, after all, human, and we read in verse 2 his question about descendants, he being as yet childless. Even so, however, Abram was willing to count the child of his steward as fulfilling the promise of God. Not so with God for the promise (12:3) was to include Sarah also. God very clearly makes this plain in verse 4, the heir was to be Abram's indeed and not the child of another. But not only is Abram to have an heir but the land in which he was sojourning as a pilgrim was to be his and his seed to be as the stars for multitude.

"And he believed." The great test to this faith came later. Heb. 11:19, but here in this first distinct scriptural history of faith we find set forth those principles that have governed through all time. (1) The acceptance of the word of God, e. g., to have our trust built upon or supported by the word of Jehovah, see Isa. 30:21; (2) to act upon that faith so that our course in life manifests the belief of the heart.

God's covenant, 12:1-4, is confirmed in seven ways, 1. Posterity, (a) natural, "earth," (b) spiritual, "heaven," (c) also through Ishmael, Gen. 17:18-20; 2. Blessing, both temporal and spiritual; 3. great name; 4. Be a blessing, Gal. 3:13, 14; 5. "I will bless them that bless thee;" 6. "and curse them that curse thee;" 7. the families of the earth blessed through Abram, e. g., through Christ, Gal. 3:16.

"And he believed in the Lord" (v. 6). Abram built upon the naked word of God, he simply looked at that and that alone, Rom. 4:20. R. V. All God asks of us is for us to take him at his word. So it is that as we take his word about Jesus, he reckons that faith to us as righteousness; no matter how unrighteous we may have been, see Rom. 4:3-6; Gal. 3:6-7. The one thing that God demands is that we believe him and his word.

II. "Whereby Shall I Know." vv. 8-18. The weakness of human faith indicated by Abram's question (v. 8) is answered by God giving to him directions for the preparation of a sacrifice. Abram did not really doubt God's word (v. 6), but he did desire a confirming sign. Many today are looking for assuring signs from God when his bare word should be enough. Asking for signs is not always safe, Luke 1:18-20, but as in Abram's case God does give us a pledge, a sign of our inheritance, 2 Cor. 1:22, Eph. 1:14. God gave Abram, after he had explicitly followed his directions, a symbolic vision of himself. Someone has suggested that the vultures of prey (v. 11) are symbolic of Satan, and Abram, driving them away, a symbol of one victory over evil, Jas. 4:7. God is always nearer to man and best reveals himself when we are in the midst of sacrifice. God tells Abram of those days of servitude on the part of his descendants while they are to be in Egypt, of God's judgment to be brought upon that land and of their ultimate deliverance.

Symbols of God.

Every detail of these predictions and promises was fulfilled. In verse 15 there is presented the great thought of the need of preparation in youth for the future days of "good old age"—also in this verse a suggestion of the life beyond the grave.

MISSOURI STATE NEWS

Hens Rank Next to Corn.

The hens of Missouri furnish enough eggs to give every person in the state one and a half to eat each day. That means that 150 million dozen eggs are laid in the state each year. H. L. Kempster, professor of poultry husbandry at the University of Missouri, has just computed the work of Missouri hens. He shows that the state poultry crop each year is the most valuable of any except the corn crop. The hen, according to his figures, should outrank the mule. The average number marketed each year in the state is 22 million dozen. The estimated total output is 150 million dozen. This means about 540 eggs for every person in Missouri. Those figures are remarkable for the reason that chicken raising is not the regular business of many farmers, but merely an adjunct. There are in the state only about one hundred carload lot shippers of eggs. Word has come to the university that the United States Department of Agriculture is planning to start a field station at Sedalia to help the farmers improve the eggs produced and get a better price.

Carries Enmity Beyond Grave.

The will of David P. Rankin a St. Louis capitalist leaves the bulk of the millions in stock and realty holdings to three nieces living in Montreal, Canada. The estate is estimated at \$3,000,000. Personal property alone is appraised at \$3,000,000. The provisions of the bequests to the nieces, Annie R. Logan, Mary Rankin and Jessie Rankin, who will receive about \$1,500,000 each, bind them on pain of losing everything, not to give a single penny of their inheritance to their father or stepmother. In case any of the nieces pays even the forbidden penny left by their bachelor uncle to either of their parents and the trustees learn of it, that niece is to be treated as if dead and her share diverts to her descendants. This strange enmity, carried beyond the grave, extends also to Mary Rankin Jordan and her descendants and to two paternal aunts of Rankin, who were long since dead when he made his will. The aunts are Ann Rankin and Mary Patten and the will directs that in case of the death of other heirs the immense property is to be divided by the trustees that the descendants of these relatives are to be treated as dead.

James River Dam Begun.

Within a month of the expiration of the life of the franchise granted by congress permitting the damming of the James river, work was started on the construction of a hydro-electric power plant at Virgin Rock, near Galena, Stone county. A company composed of General William H. Standish of Aurora, and his associates is building the dam. It is probable the power generated there will be distributed by the Ozark Power and Water company. It will be necessary to tunnel for half a mile near a bend in the river to get the necessary fall.

To Advertise the State.

One hundred thousand dollars will be spent by the civic organizations of Missouri in the next few years in bringing farmers and industries to the state and thus developing its resources, if the plans of the Federation of Missouri Commercial clubs are successfully carried out.

Springfield Assured Appropriation.

Judge John T. Sturgis of the Springfield court of appeals, returned from Jefferson City, where he appeared before the joint appropriation committee of the house and senate relative to funds for a library for the court. He was assured an appropriation of \$10,000.

Will Dispose of Farm Crops.

If any farmer in the state has seed corn, wheat, cow peas, mules, clover, poultry or any product to sell and believes that he isn't offered a fair price at his home market; or if he desires a farm hand, let him write to L. M. Drumm, Columbia, and he will get old. Mr. Drumm is secretary of the Missouri State Exchange formed here at the gathering of farmers at the college of agriculture Farmers' Week. Memberships are being issued this week with two thousand applications from farmers in every part of the state.

Farm Expert to Livingston.

It took 20 members of the Chamber of Commerce just 30 minutes to decide that Livingston county needed a farm adviser, and Mr. Doan at Columbia was notified by wire to consider Livingston county an applicant for an adviser. A committee of business men guaranteed the money to pay the adviser until it could be secured by a private subscription.

KANSAS CITY BISHOP DEAD

HEAD OF CATHOLIC DIOCESE PASSES AWAY.

End Comes to Bishop John J. Hogan After a Life of Usefulness.

Kansas City.—Bishop John J. Hogan of the diocese of Kansas City in the Catholic church, died at 12:55 o'clock in the afternoon at the Episcopal residence. He had been ill ten days. Bishop Thomas F. Lillis, coadjutor, was with him. He was conscious until 10 o'clock in the morning.

Bishop Hogan had been a priest for sixty years—a bishop for forty-four. Of all who were present at his ordination in 1852 he was the last survivor. And, excepting Cardinal Gibbons, he has been since 1909, the oldest living bishop. It was not, however, until July, 1910, that the active work of the venerable man was transferred to Bishop Thomas F. Lillis, who had been appointed his coadjutor. Since then Bishop Hogan lived quietly in rest and meditation. He lived in respect and honor. Visiting churchmen always counted it a privilege to call on him, and on his birthday anniversary visitors always filled his study.

DECOYED FROM BED AND SHOT

A Kansas Powder Plant Superintendent Killed by a Drunken Watchman.

Columbus, Kas.—William Durkee, superintendent of the Dupont powder works at Turck, was shot and killed by "Slim" Patterson, night watchman. Patterson compelled the engineer to sound four blasts on the whistle, the signal to summon the superintendent to the works in case of an emergency. As soon as Durkee responded Patterson confronted him and exclaiming: "Now, you double crosser, I've got you where I want you, and am going to fix you," fired at him with a rifle. Durkee staggered to a building several yards away, and then fell. He died fifteen minutes later. Patterson gave himself up and was brought to the county jail in Columbus.

A PLOT TO KILL GOV. SULZER

The New York Executive Learned of a Conspiracy to Assassinate Him.

Albany, N. Y.—Governor Sulzer has been informed of an alleged plot to assassinate him. The governor related that a man, with head swathed in bandages, called at the executive chamber and was referred to Owen L. Potter, his legal assistant. To Mr. Potter the man, whose name the governor would not divulge, said that Thursday night while in an abandoned elder mill, he had overheard two men discussing a plot to kill the governor. When the conspirators learned of the presence of the governor's informant they assaulted and robbed him. Both he and Mrs. Sulzer, the governor said, have been receiving threatening letters.

SHOTS IN A REAL ESTATE DEAL

One Man Killed and Two Wounded at the Result of a Conference at Dallas, Texas.

Dallas, Tex.—In a conference over a proposed real estate deal in an office building here James L. White, treasurer of the Republic Trust Company of this city, was shot and killed and A. Silvers, vice-president of the Republic and president of A. Silvers & Co., probably was fatally wounded. J. A. Clapton of San Antonio, Tex., the third man in the conference, is charged with the crime.

TO RESCUE IN A STEAM ENGINE

Wife Saved and Burglars Routed by Chicago Engineer After a Fast Run.

Chicago, Ill.—Running his locomotive at a high rate of speed for several miles, James Powers, engineer of a switch engine, raced to his home in response to a telephone call from his wife that burglars had locked her in a room. He arrived in time to release his wife and chase the intruders, but they escaped.

Naval Bill Reported.

Washington, D. C.—The Naval Appropriation bill, carrying 146 million dollars and authorizing two battle-ships, one transport, one supply ship, six torpedo boat destroyers and four submarines, has been reported in the House.

Sent Whisky by Parcel Post.

Minneapolis, Minn.—A Minneapolis liquor dealer faces a \$5,000 fine and five years in Leavenworth prison for sending whisky by parcel post to the dry state of North Dakota.

Many a great man has exclusive knowledge of the fact.

FILES CURED IN 6 TO 14 DAYS
Your druggist will refund money if PINK OINTMENT fails to cure any case of itching, blind, bleeding or protruding piles in 6 to 14 days. 50c.

Sometimes a young lawyer makes good because he has a wife who lays down the law to him.

HANDS CRACKED AND BLED

St. Clair, Mo.—"My trouble began about fifteen years ago. It was what some claimed eczema. The form the disease worked under was a breaking out with watery blisters on my hands which would then dry and scale, and then would follow the trouble of cracking and bleeding, also itching and hurting. My hands were disfigured at the time, and sore. The trouble was very annoying, and disturbed my sleep. This last February it was ever so much worse than before. I did not do all my work on account of the condition of my hands. I could not put them in water without making them worse. I tried a lot of home remedies, also salves and liniments that claimed to be a cure for the trouble, but I did not obtain a cure. At last I saw the advertisement for Cuticura Soap and Ointment. I sent for a sample. I thought they would cure, so I sent for a fifty-cent box of Cuticura Ointment and some Cuticura Soap. A doctor advised me to keep ahead with the Cuticura Soap and Ointment and they cured me completely. No trace of the trouble remains." (Signed) Mrs. Mary Taylor, Mar. 29, 1912.

Cuticura Soap and Ointment sold throughout the world. Sample of each free, with 32-p. Skin Book. Address post-card "Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston." Adv.

In the Day of the Billionaires.
A brilliant New York lawyer said at a dinner at the Lotus club apropos of certain trust magnates:

"Thanks to watered stock—and watered stock is criminal abroad—these men are indeed rich beyond the dreams of avarice.

"If the watering of stock is allowed to keep on we'll hear our billionaires talking like this some day:

"Hullo! There goes Jones in his 300 horsepower car. Do you know him?"

"Do I know him! Do I know Jones! Why, man alive, Jones and I were struggling young millionaires together!"—New York Times.

When the Sun Will Die.
It may be said unqualifiedly that the sun, like every other thing connected with the present order, will finally cease to be what it is today. The time will most surely come when the sun will have ceased to throw off light and heat. Long before that happens, however, the earth and other planets will have become "dead worlds," like the moon—no life of any sort upon them. It has been calculated that the sun will cease to throw out its heat somewhere about seven million of years from now.

its Merit.
"Why is a mirror considered one of the best of critics?"
"Because it always faces the truth."

The average man has a lot more to say about what he is going to do than about what he has done.

GOOD NATURED AGAIN
Good Humor Returns With Change to Proper Food.

"For many years I was a constant sufferer from indigestion and nervousness, amounting almost to prostration," writes a Montana man.

"My blood was impoverished, the vision was blurred and weak, with moving spots before my eyes. This was a steady daily condition. I grew ill-tempered, and eventually got so nervous I could not keep my books posted, nor handle accounts satisfactorily. I can't describe my sufferings.

"Nothing I ate agreed with me, till one day I happened to notice Grape-Nuts in a grocery store, and bought a package out of curiosity to know what it was.

"I liked the food from the very first, eating it with cream, and now I buy it by the case and use it daily. I soon found that Grape-Nuts food was supplying brain and nerve force as nothing in the drug line ever had done or could do.

"It wasn't long before I was restored to health, comfort and happiness.

"Through the use of Grape-Nuts food my digestion has been restored, my nerves are steady once more, my eyesight is good again, my mental faculties are clear and acute, and I have become so good-natured that my friends are truly astonished at the change. I feel younger and better than I have for 20 years. No amount of money would induce me to surrender what I have gained through the use of Grape-Nuts food." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. "There's a reason." Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in page.

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest. Adv.

HUSBAND TIRED OF SEEING HER SUFFER

Procured Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, which made His Wife a Well Woman.

Middletown, Pa.—"I had headache, backache and such awful bearing down pains that I could not be on my feet at times and I had organic inflammation so badly that I was not able to do my work. I could not get a good meal for my husband and one child. My neighbors said they thought my suffering was terrible.

"My husband got tired of seeing me suffer and one night went to the drug store and got me a bottle of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and told me I must take it. I can't tell you all I suffered and I can't tell you all that your medicine has done for me. I was greatly benefited from the first and it has made me a well woman. I can do all my housework and even helped some of my friends as well. I think it is a wonderful help to all suffering women. I have got several to take it after seeing what it has done for me."—Mrs. EMMA ESPENSHADE, 219 East Main St., Middletown, Pa.

The Pinkham record is a proud and honorable one. It is a record of constant victory over the obstinate ills of woman—ills that deal out despair. It is an established fact that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has restored health to thousands of such suffering women. Why don't you try it if you need such a medicine?

If you want special advice write to Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co. (confidential) Lynn, Mass. Your letter will be opened, read and answered by a woman and held in strict confidence.

Cough, Cold Sore Throat

Sloan's Liniment gives quick relief for cough, cold, hoarseness, sore throat, croup, asthma, hay fever and bronchitis.

HERE'S PROOF.
Mr. ALBERT W. FRANK, of Fredonia, Kan., writes: "We use Sloan's Liniment in the family and find it an excellent relief for colds and hay fever attacks. It stops coughing and sneezing almost instantly."

SLOAN'S LINIMENT

RELIEVED SORE THROAT.
Mrs. L. BREWER, of Modesto, Fla., writes: "I bought one bottle of your Liniment and it did me all the good in the world. My throat was very sore, and it cured me of my trouble."

GOOD FOR COLD AND CROUP.
Mr. W. H. STRANGER, 3721 Elmwood Avenue, Chicago, Ill., writes: "A little boy next door had croup. I gave the mother Sloan's Liniment to try. She gave him three drops on sugar before going to bed, and he got up without the croup in the morning." Price, 25c., 50c., \$1.00



Constipation Vanishes Forever

Prompt Relief—Permanent Cure

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS never fail. Purely vegetable—act surely but gently on the liver. Stop after dinner distress—cure indigestion, improve the complexion, brighten the eyes. SMALL PILL, SMALL DOSE, SMALL PRICE. Genuine must bear Signature



Small PILL, SMALL DOSE, SMALL PRICE.

Genuine must bear Signature

Brentwood

PISO'S REMEDY

Best Cough Syrup, Throat Candy, etc. in Use. Sold by Druggists.

FOR COUGHS AND COLDS